

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Presently Twice Amended) A method for use in cable systems, the method for forwarding messages containing cryptographic keys from multiple conditional access systems that control a population of set-top boxes to an encryption renewal system, the method comprising:

storing a single fictitious address of a virtual set-top box, said fictitious address being identical for each of said multiple conditional access systems;

generating a unique key within each of said multiple conditional access systems as a ~~function~~ function of the identity of each particular multiple conditional access system;

encrypting said unique key for each of said multiple conditional access systems; and

encapsulating each of said encrypted unique keys in a message encoded to be forwarded to said single fictitious address.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the encoded message by the encryption renewal system which has information regarding the fictitious address.

3. (Presently Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising deriving by the encryption renewal system the unique ~~first cryptographic~~ key from the encoded message.

4. (Presently Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising forwarding to a subscriber set-top box, a control message containing information having the unique first-cyprographic key for allowing the set-top box to decrypt pre-encrypted content for a designated duration.

5 - 21. (Previously Canceled)

22 - 35. (Withdrawn)